



National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians  
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May 14, 2018

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Democratic Whip  
711 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
109 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-1605

Dear Senator Durbin and Senator Roberts,

On behalf of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT), we are writing in support of S. 2830, the Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs (SIREN) Act, which would create a needed grant program for EMS agencies in rural areas, many of which are at the forefront of the opioid epidemic, to support recruitment, retention, education, and equipment for EMS personnel in rural areas.

Formed in 1975 and more than 65,000 members strong, NAEMT is the nation's only organization solely dedicated to representing the professional interests of all EMS practitioners, including paramedics, emergency medical technicians, emergency medical responders and other professionals working in emergency and mobile healthcare, including government service agencies, fire departments, hospital-based ambulance services, private companies, industrial and special operations, and in the military.

Rural EMS agencies face unique challenges in delivering quality patient care to the communities in their area. While patients in rural areas have the same acute and chronic medical conditions as other urban and suburban areas requiring EMS response, treatment, and transport, the operational and geographic challenges for rural EMS agencies make patient care even more difficult.

As you are well aware, rural EMS agencies may be the only healthcare providers in their area. Most rural agencies also face challenges in personnel recruitment and retention, providing continuing education and preparedness training, purchasing updated equipment, maintaining adequate coverage during prolonged transport times, obtaining qualified medical oversight, and are increasingly filling the gap left by the elimination or reduction of community healthcare resources.

Thank you for working with us in addressing this need in rural areas and introducing S. 2830.

We look forward to continuing our work with you and getting this bill signed into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis W. Rowe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Dennis Rowe, EMT-P  
President, NAEMT